

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2604
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, PK, IN
SUBJECT: AZIZ AHMED COMMENTS ON A NO WAR PACT

1. THE JULY FIRST PAK PRESS REPORTS THAT FOREIGN MINISTER AZIZ AHMED HAS EXPRESSED "SURPRISE" OVER STATEMENTS ATTRIBUTED TO INDIAN PRIME MINISTER DESAI DURING THE LATTER'S RECENT TOUR OF KASHMOR. THE INDIAN PM REPORTEDLY SAID THAT THE GOI HAS ALWAYS BEEN READY TO SIGN A NO WAR PACT WITH PAKISTAN. DESAI IS ALSO REPORTED TO HAVE SAID THAT A DIALOGUE WITH THE GOP MUST WAIT UNTIL THE SITUATION IN PAKISTAN BECOMES "NORMAL."

2. IN A PREDICTABLY SHARP RESPONSE TO DESAI'S REPORTED COMMENTS, AZIZ AHMED REITERATED PAKISTAN'S WELL KNOW POSITION THAT IN ORDER FOR A NO WAR PACT TO BE MEANINGFUL THE AGREEMENT MUST ALSO PROVIDE MACHINERY FOR THE PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES WHICH MAY CAUSE TENSION OR LEAD TO WAR. AHMED ASSERTED THAT THE INDIAN RESPONSE TO SUCH A PROVISION HAS BEEN UNIFORMLY NEGATIVE. THE PM HINTED THAT, IN LIGHT OF PAKISTAN'S WELL-KNOWN POSITION, THE ONLY REASON DESAI MENTIONED THE SUBJECT NOW WAS FOR ITS PROPAGANDA VALUE. AHMED ADDED THAT PAKISTAN WAS

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WILLING TO DISCUSS DESAI'S PROPOSAL PROVIDED INDIA UNDERSTOOD THAT A PACT OR DECLARATION MUST PROVIDE FOR "SELF-EXECUTING MACHINERY" TO ENSURE THAT THE KASHMIR DISPUTE IS STEELTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE KASHMIRIS' RIGHT OF SELF DETERMINATION.

3. AHMED WAS ALSO "SURPRISED" THAT THE INDIAN PM REPORTEDLY SAID THAT NO DIALOGUE WAS POSSIBLE WITH ISLAMABAD UNTIL THE SITUATION

IN PAKISTAN RETURNED TO NORMAL. AHMED ASSERTED THAT THE SITUATION IN PAKISTAN IS NORMAL AND THE FACT THAT THERE ARE POLITICAL DIFFERENCES IN PAKISTAN IS A MATTER OF INTERNAL CONCERN, AND HAS NO BEARING ON PAK-INDIA RELATIONS. AHMED POINTED OUT THAT DURING THE LAST TWO YEARS INDIA ITSELF PASSED THROUGH AN "ABNORMAL PHASE" YET NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS BETWEEN INDIA AND PAKISTAN CONTINUED AND DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WERE RESTORED.

4. COMMENT: AHMED'S REMARKS ON DESAI'S REPORTED STATEMENTS CONTAIN NO SURPRISES AND ARE A STANDARD REITERATION OF PAKISTAN'S POSITION REGARDING A NO WAR PACT. HOWEVER THIS IS THE SECOND TIME IN LESS THAN A WEEK THAT THE PAK MFA HAS FELT OBLIGED TO REBUT STATEMENTS ATTRIBUTED TO DESAI. THE POLCOUNS AT THE INDIAN EMBASSY HERE, IN A CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF, REMARKED THAT HIS EMBASSY WAS GETTING A BIT CONCERNED ABOUT WHAT IT VIEWED AS ANTI-INDIAN STATEMENTS BY THE GOP. HE ADDED THAT HE WAS "PLEASANTLY SURPRISED" THAT ANTI-INDIAN ALLEGATIONS HAVE NOT PLAYED AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE PAKISTAN POLITICAL CRISIS, AND HE HOPED THE RECENT STATEMENTS EMANATING FROM THE MFA DID NOT PRESAGE A CHANGE IN TACTICS. INDIAN POLCOUNS DENIED THAT DESAI HAD MADE THE STATEMENTS ON PAKISTAN'S ACQUISITION OF A REPROCESSING PLANT ATTRIBUTED TO HIM BY SAMACHAR, ADDING THAT HE WAS "PUZZLED" THAT SUCH ALLEGATIONS WERE CARRIED BY INDIA'S OFFICIAL PRESS AGENCY.
HUMMEL

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